

## Editorially Speaking

# Vote Yes

With the November 6 general election just a few days away, it is important that Clinton (SC) employees be aware of two state-wide constitutional amendments which will appear on the ballot, both of which are critical to our community and industry.

The most important amendment is **Amendment 2**. This amendment would permit a city after July 1, 1985 to exempt a new manufacturing company or an old manufacturing company within the city that builds an addition costing \$50,000 or more from paying municipal property tax for not more than five years.

Under the provisions of the proposed amendment, the bill does not afford industry

any special favors or tax credits that cannot be obtained presently in counties throughout South Carolina.

The amendment encourages industries to build and expand within municipal boundaries, instead of just the county.

In addition, voters will decide the fate of another amendment, Amendment 4, commonly referred to as the tax and spending limitation amendment. In simple terms, it requires that the General Assembly spend within its income. That is, the state's spending cannot exceed its income.

When analyzed thoroughly, a "yes" vote on both amendments would serve in the best interest of each of us.

## Clinton Mills Registers Over 525 Employees

More than 525 Clinton plants employees took advantage of the voter registration drive recently conducted in the plants.

According to Jim Switzer, coordinator of the drive, employees were very pleased to have an opportunity to register without having to visit the Laurens County Courthouse.

Clinton employees are encouraged to evaluate the qualifications of each person seeking elected office and study various issues. It's one thing to be a registered voter; however, it's more important to vote.

# Participate in America

## Participate *By* Voting

**ELECTION DAY FEVER!** The Hoopla, the flag waving, and the promises. Everybody gets excited.

But does everybody get involved?

The very fibre of our free enterprise system demands a vigilant citizenry. To protect and preserve our unique system, we must all get involved in the political process, every day of the year.

Above all, we must vote for the candidates who share our views, and thereby help decide the direction the nation takes in the years ahead. Every vote counts! It's an opportunity we can't afford to pass up.

And our responsibility doesn't end with election day. If anything, that's when the responsibilities begin. Whether it's City Hall, the State House, or Capitol Hill, elected officials must continue to hear our voices on the issues.

Never assume that your elected officials have all the answers. Never assume that you can't change the course of legislation. And never assume that the bureaucracy is too deaf to hear.

Unfortunately, too many of us think we'll be considered a kook or a wild-eyed rebel if we speak out. That's what a lot of people thought about the men who gathered in Philadelphia two hundred years ago. And they had a lot more to risk than we do.

True, it's difficult to redirect national affairs or to have an individual influence on the course of national destiny. But our national elected officials are responsive to a chorus of voices.

And what about local affairs? Have you ever attended a Board of Education meeting? A village, town, city, or county council meeting? Have you ever spoken out on zoning matters or supported the tough issues even though the right position might have been unpopular?

It's a lot easier to sit back and criticize "government" for whatever ills are created. But maybe that's how the ills were created in the first place. Because government itself simply "assumed."

Because we assumed our job was done when we voted on election day.

But the fact is that we are "government," all of us, elected or not. This basic tenet of our Constitution has never been changed. It may have been forgotten, but it's never been revoked.

Our free enterprise system, and the democracy which supports it, do at times creak with inefficiencies.

We may get frustrated or angry at the inane actions of our elected officials and their surrounding bureaucracies. We may feel that taxes are too high and benefits too low.

But with all its apparent failings and shortcomings, our country is still regarded throughout the world as offering the most personal freedom and opportunity.

There's only one way to protect America's unique system. And that is for all of us to get involved in the political process—every day of the year.

Remember, your vote counts. Your voice counts more.

## Letters to the Editor

Please extend our thanks and gratitude to those 110 employees at Lydia who rolled up their sleeves and donated blood during our request.

Clinton Mills has been actively involved in the volunteer blood program for over five years now. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone there whose loyal support has helped us meet the blood needs in our area hospitals, without fail, during those five years.

You're the best!

Sincerely,  
Sharon A. Warday  
Director, Donor Resources

I'm speechless! The three days of your blood drive was wonderful at Plants No. 1 and 2.

You are all, without a doubt, a wonderful group of people.

Please extend our thanks and gratitude to each and every individual who helped make this week's blood drive a success.

Without dedicated folks like all of you, we, at the Carolina-Georgia Blood Center could not meet the needs of the patients in the 16 hospitals we serve.

Sincerely,  
Jan S. Bruce  
Donor Resources

## New Import Rules Have Big Loophole

Foreign textiles continue to take their toll in lost U.S. jobs, plant closings and cut-backs. Imports in June were worth \$1 billion, the first time that level has been reached in a single month.

On September 7, 1984, the government's new rules for cracking down on illegal imports went into effect. But there was a giant loophole; it allows goods purchased before August 3, 1984, and shipped before October 31, 1984, to be exempt from the new rules.

We can expect another big surge in im-

ports as American buyers and foreign producers scramble to beat the extended deadline on enforcement of rules that have been on the books for years.

The exemptions came about because retailers, importers and shipping interests—plus some foreign governments—protested the new rules. The regulations are designed to halt the illegal and widespread practice of "transshipment"—assembling garments in different countries to get around quota limits.

Clinton Mills has been very active in letting elected officials know they want these illegal trade practices stopped—and this battle.

Meanwhile, due mainly to the efforts of Rep. Butler Derrick (D-SC), the U.S. House passed a bill requiring textile products to be labeled with the country of origin. The U.S. Senate had already passed the bill. The law covers ads and catalogs as well as the goods themselves. This means textile products made in the United States will be identified as "Made in U.S.A.," so customers can find American products more easily. The bill takes effect in mid-December, 1984.

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Everyone hears the phrase, "low-wage foreign producers" when the talk is about textile imports. But a recent study shows clearly just what kind of unfair advantage many exporting countries hold over our products.

China's average labor cost is just 3 percent of America's. So are those of Indonesia and Sri Lanka. In Pakistan, labor costs only 6 percent of U.S. costs; in Brazil it's 11 percent and in Portugal it's 15 percent.

The ratio in Hong Kong and Taiwan is 19 percent and in South Korea it's 22 percent. That means that for every dollar U.S. textile companies invest in their employees, these major foreign competitors invest less than a quarter.

Given that kind of cost advantage, plus government subsidies, it's no wonder our U.S. companies are under attack. The remarkable fact is our own people and plants are so productive they're still able to put up a terrific fight against those kinds of odds with very little government protection.

## Vance Present At Bill Signing

President Reagan signed into law September 1984 legislation that requires American textile and apparel products be conspicuously identified in labels and mail order catalogs.

Among those attending the Rose Garden ceremony were Clinton Mills Chairman Mr. Robert M. Vance.